

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 /124 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:BBELL:JZ

9/13/73 EXT. 23048

APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:BBELL

S/S-O: P.P. SARROS

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P 140424Z SEP 73

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF STATE DEPT. NEWS BRIEFING,
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1973

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PERTINENT REMARKS CONCERNING CHILE
MADE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT TODAY'S NOON
BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE USE IN ANSWERING
QUESTIONS:

MR. HARE: WE'VE BEEN RECEIVING MANY QUERIES OVER THE NIGHT
AND THIS MORNING WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN CHILE, AND
WE HAVE BEEN READING AND SEEING A NUMBER OF REPORTS. FOR
PURPOSES OF CLARIFICATION, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SEVERAL
COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN
RAISED AND THE REPORTS THAT WE HAVE SEEN.

ONE CONCERNS THE QUESTION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
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KNEW OF THE COUP IN ADVANCE OF ITS TAKING PLACE. I WANT TO
MAKE IT CLEAR THAT DURING THE PAST MONTHS, WE HAVE RECEIVED
MANY REPORTS FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES THAT ON A
CERTAIN DATE AT A CERTAIN TIME, SOME FORM OF MILITARY INTER-
VENTION WOULD TAKE PLACE.

THESE MATTERS, IN MANY CASES, WERE COMMON GOSSIP IN SANTIAGO AND KNOWN BY MANY PEOPLE. NONE OF THESE EARLIER PREDICTIONS CAME TRUE.

AS A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, IN THE VERY RECENT PAST WE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT A COUP ATTEMPT WOULD TAKE PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 8TH. THIS, OBVIOUSLY, DID NOT HAPPEN. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 10 WAS REPORTED. THIS, AGAIN, TURNED OUT TO BE WRONG.

WE DID RECEIVE REPORTS THAT SEPTEMBER 11 WAS TO BE THE DATE AND THIS, AS YOU KNOW, TURNED OUT TO BE CORRECT.

WITH RESPECT TO THESE LATTER REPORTS, HOWEVER, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THEY WERE NOT SEEN BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS UNTIL AFTER THE COUP HAD BEGUN. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY OF KNOWING BEFOREHAND, THAT ON ANY OF THESE DATES, INCLUDING THE SEPTEMBER 11 DATE, A COUP ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE.

WE NOW KNOW THAT AT ABOUT 6:20 ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 11, THE CHILEAN MILITARY ACTED. THE INFORMATION THAT A COUP ATTEMPT WAS IN FACT IN PROGRESS DID NOT REACH THE DEPARTMENT UNTIL ABOUT 8:45 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 11TH.

Q: WERE BOTH OF THESE TIMES WASHINGTON TIME?

A: SANTIAGO TIME AND WASHINGTON TIME ARE THE SAME. SECONDLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE STORIES THAT WE HAVE SEEN WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITAS TASK GROUP, AND THE TIMING OF INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO THAT TASK GROUP, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THIS POINT:

THE UNITAS TASK GROUP WAS ANCHORED IN PERUVIAN WATERS, ON SEPTEMBER 10, AND WAS SCHEDULED TO SAIL ON THE MORNING OF
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SEPTEMBER 11 TO COMMENCE THE CHILEAN SEGMENT OF THE EXERCISES.

AND I WOULD REPEAT WHAT I SAID BEFORE, THAT WE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT A COUP WOULD ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 11, ANYMORE THAN ON ANY OF THE PREVIOUS DATES THAT HAD BEEN REPORTED.

THE UNITAS VESSELS SAILED ON SCHEDULE FROM PERU THE EARLY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 11, AND WERE NOT INSTRUCTED TO CHANGE THEIR LONG ESTABLISHED SCHEDULE UNTIL LATER THAT MORNING APPROXIMATELY 11:00 A.M., AFTER THE CONFIRMED REPORT OF AN ACTUAL COUP ATTEMPT IN PROGRESS HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY

WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES. THIS WAS DONE TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE CHARGE THAT THIS ANNUAL EXERCISE, WHICH WAS IN ITS FOURTEENTH YEAR AND LONG PLANNED IN ADVANCE, WOULD POSSIBLY BE USED TO SUPPORT ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INTERVENTION.

THIRDLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE CHILEAN TASK FORCE IN THIS BUILDING AND THE SOMETIMES SINISTER IMPLICATIONS WHICH ARE ATTACHED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT TASK FORCE -- I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TWO POINTS:

ONE, IS THAT IT WAS NOT ESTABLISHED UNTIL AFTER WE WERE INFORMED, AND BECAME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT A COUP WAS IN PROGRESS. IT WAS ACTUALLY ESTABLISHED AT APPROXIMATELY 9:30 A.M. OF SEPTEMBER 11. IT WAS NOT -- REPEAT, NOT -- IN OPERATION BEFORE THE COUP STARTED, FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT WE DID NOT KNOW THAT A COUP WOULD IN FACT TAKE PLACE.

SECONDLY, I THINK THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH STATE DEPARTMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES WILL NOT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT IT IS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS KIND. WE DO IT FREQUENTLY, AND HAVE AN OPERATIONS CENTER FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Q: CONTINUE.

A: FOURTHLY, WITH RESPECT TO AMBASSADOR DAVIS AND HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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RETURN HERE TO WASHINGTON, AND THE INTERPRETATIONS WHICH ARE BEING MADE WITH RESPECT TO HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON -- I TOLD YOU LAST WEEK THAT WE ANTICIPATED HIS RETURN HERE, AND THAT AMBASSADOR DAVIS WAS AMONG MANY AMBASSADORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, WHO WERE ASKED BY THE SECRETARY DESIGNATE TO RETURN TO SAN CLEMENTE, OR TO WASHINGTON, TO SEE HIM.

BEFORE LEAVING CHILE, AMBASSADOR DAVIS TOLD THE CHILEAN FOREIGN OFFICE HE WAS GOING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION AND THE EMBASSY HERE KNEW THAT HE WAS IN WASHINGTON.

AMBASSADOR DAVIS ARRIVED LAST FRIDAY, HAD CONSULTATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT, SAW DR. KISSINGER, AND RETURNED TO SANTIAGO ON SATURDAY. HE WAS, IN FACT, ASKED BY THE SECRETARY DESIGNATE TO COME TO WASHINGTON AT A TIME OF HIS CONVENIENCE, SOME DAYS AGO, AND HIS PURPOSE IN COMING WAS CLEARLY NOT TO REPORT ON ANY COUP ATTEMPT.

HE RETURNED TO CHILE IMMEDIATELY AFTER SEEING THE SECRETARY DESIGNATE, BECAUSE OF THE TENSE SITUATION THERE AND THE ADVISABILITY OF HAVING OUR AMBASSADOR PRESENT IN

THE COUNTRY DURING THIS PERIOD -- WHICH IS, AGAIN, I REPEAT, A NORMAL PRACTICE OF OURS. HE DID NOT RETURN BECAUSE WE KNEW A COUP WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE.

FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE,

WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED I BELIEVE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I WANT TO MAKE THIS COMMENT: I DO WANT TO EXPRESS REGRET ON THE LOSS OF LIFE IN CHILE AND PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE CHIEF OF STATE, PRESIDENT ALLENDE.

Q: PAUL --

A: YES.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE REPORT THAT THE SENATORS WERE TOLD YESTERDAY THAT A DECISION WAS TAKEN "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL" TO KEEP HANDS OFF?

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A: I'M GOING TO TO ON BACKGROUND IN RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION, BECAUSE WE DID HAVE AN OFFICER OF THIS BUILDING WHO DID GO TO SEE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, YESTERDAY AFTERNOON -- LATE IN THE AFTERNOON.

I HAVE SPOKEN WITH MR. KUBISCH IN THE COURSE OF THIS MORNING, ABOUT HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE SENATORS AND HE ASSURES ME THAT THAT PARTICULAR VERSION, OR THAT PARTICULAR INTERPRETATION, WAS NOT THE CASE, BECAUSE AS I SAID, WE DID NOT KNOW THAT THE COUP WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE; AND IT'S RATHER DIFFICULT TO MAKE A POLICY DECISION IN A STATE OF IGNORANCE.

Q: WELL LET ME CARRY IT A LITTLE FURTHER. YOU SAID, "THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REPORTS OVER THE PREVIOUS DAYS."

A: IN PREVIOUS WEEKS -- AND MONTHS.

Q: -- IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING MR. KUBISCH SAID WAS MISCONSTRUED, BUT THAT A POLICY DECISION HAD BEEN MADE THAT IF ANY OF THESE THINGS ACTUALLY DO COME OFF, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL STAY OUT OF IT -- AND THAT THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL?

I MEAN, IT SEEMS A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT A NUMBER OF SENATORS WERE TOTALLY UNABLE TO COMPREHEND WHAT WAS SAID.

A: AGAIN, I WANT TO TALK ON BACKGROUND BECAUSE THE MEET-

ING WAS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, AND I HOPE YOU WILL EXCUSE ME.

THE WAY I READ THE STORY, IT SAID THAT -- AS I RECALL IT -- THAT WE KNEW IN ADVANCE OF THE COUP, THAT THE COUP WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE, WE KNEW THE DAY BEFORE AND BECAUSE OF THAT KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAD ACQUIRED, WE MADE A DECISION BASED ON THAT INFORMATION TO HAVE A "HANDS OFF" POLICY. THAT WAS THE THRUST OF THE STORY IF I RECOLLECT IT.

AND ALL I CAN SAY REALLY IS THAT THIS COULDN'T HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAPPENED.

Q: PAUL I WANT TO SETTLE A POINT HERE. WHEN YOU SAY, AND YOU HAVE SAID SEVERAL TIMES, THAT YOU WERE TOLD THE COUP WAS COMING AND THAT THERE WAS NO WAY TO PROVE IT -- IT'S OBVIOUS -- YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THE COUP WILL TAKE PLACE.

NOW THE QUESTION IS:

NUMBER ONE: WHO INFORMED THE UNITED STATES OF THE LAST REPORT THE COUP WAS COMING ON SEPTEMBER THE 11TH? WAS IT AN OFFICER WHO IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT? WAS IT A MEMBER OF THE CHILEAN CONGRESS, OR WAS IT THE NEWSBOY ON THE STREET?

AND NUMBER TWO: IF THE UNITED STATES GOT SO MANY REPORTS THAT THE COUP WAS COMING -- AT ANY TIME DID IT ATTEMPT TO TELL THE MILITARY NOT TO OVERTHROW THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CHILE?

A: WITH RESPECT TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION: I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT OUR EMBASSIES OVERSEAS HAVE AS ONE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, THEIR FUNCTIONS, TO REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR COUNTRY -- THE COUNTRY TO WHICH THEY ARE ATTACHED.

AS I SAID, WE HAD RECEIVED A VARIETY OF REPORTS FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY. I'M NOT ABOUT TO DISCLOSE AND REVEAL SOURCES.

I THINK IT'S SUFFICIENT TO SAY THAT THE REPORTS WERE CERTAINLY OF SUFFICIENT STANDING, IN THE VIEW OF THE EMBASSY, THAT THEY SAW FIT TO TRANSMIT IT TO WASHINGTON. BUT BEYOND THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT.

Q: COULD I JUST ASK THE QUESTION A DIFFERENT WAY.

YOU CHARACTERIZE SOME OF THE EARLIER REPORTS AS "COMMON

GOSSIP IN SANTIAGO, KNOWN TO A GREAT MANY PEOPLE." WAS
THAT ALSO TRUE OF THE REPORT DEALING WITH SEPTEMBER 11TH?
WOULD YOU CARE TO CHARACTERIZE THAT ONE THE SAME WAY?
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A: I WOULD CHARACTERIZE IT PRECISELY THE WAY I JUST DID,
AND IT WAS OF SUFFICIENT STANDING IN THE EYES OF THE
EMBASSY, THAT THEY SAW FIT TO TRANSMIT IT TO WASHINGTON.

Q. COULD YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION WHETHER YOU MADE ANY
ATTEMPT TO TELL THE MILITARY NOT TO OVERTHROW THE LEGALLY

A: I WILL HAVE TO GO ON BACKGROUND BECAUSE I WOULD HAVE
TO CHECK IT OUT THOROUGHLY, TO BE SURE OF MY GROUNDS. BUT
I THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OUR POSTURE NOT TO INVOLVE
OURSELVES.

WE SAID THAT WE WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THIS, VERY CLEARLY,
YESTERDAY AND, IT'S BEEN OUR POLICY NOT TO INTERFERE IN
THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

Q: NO, NO, NO, NO, I AM NOT REFERRING TO THAT. I AM
REFERRING TO WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION WITH THE
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY -- THE CONSTANT CONSULTATION OF
PROBLEMS OF COMMON INTEREST, AND THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE
PROBLEM OF THE COMMUNITY, AND THE PROBLEM OF CONCERN.
THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMUNITY IS A
PROBLEM OF CONCERN. I DON'T SUGGEST TO INTERFERE BUT JUST
TWO OR THREE DAYS WITH THE MILITARY WOULD BLOCK THE NATION,
THAT THE UNITED WOULD OVERLOOK -- ABROGATE THE OVERTHROW
OF THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT.

A: I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTION.

Q: PAUL, ALONG THE SIMILAR LINES, DID THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES PASS ON TO THE THEN CHILEAN GOVERNMENT
ANY OF THE REPORTS WHICH YOU HAVE REFERRED TO? IN OTHER
WORDS, WAS THERE ANY ATTEMPT MADE TO WARN PRESIDENT ALLENDE
THAT WE WERE HEARING ABOUT COUPS -- OR GETTING THIS COUP
INFORMATION --

A: ON BACKGROUND, JIM, I DOUBT IF THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN
NECESSARY. BUT CERTAINLY WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER
REPORTS, WHICH I HAVE DISCUSSED, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN
TRANSMITTED SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE READ HERE BY
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RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS -- AFTER THE FACT.

Q: WELL WHAT ABOUT THE EARLIER REPORTS, THE OTHER REPORTS -- WERE THOSE PASSED ON?

A: ON BACKGROUND, I WOULD DOUBT IT.

Q: ... SO YOU ARE SAYING IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY. BUT WHY WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY?

A: ON BACKGROUND -- GOVERNMENTS HAVE THEIR OWN MEANS OF INTELLIGENCE.

Q: BUT THE LINE OF ANSWERS THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN THIS MORNING IN YOUR STATEMENT, COULD LEAD TO THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT A COUP WAS BREWING IN CHILE IN THIS MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AND CHOSE NOT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. AND GIVEN THE BACKGROUND OF OUR TENSIONS WITH CHILE, THE INFERENCE WAS DRAWN THAT WE WERE HOPING THE COUP WOULD TAKE PLACE. IS THAT A FAIR INFERENCE?

A: AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE, WE DO NOT ADVOCATE REVOLUTION AS A MEANS OF SETTLING DISPUTES. WE OBVIOUSLY PREFER PEACEFUL PROCESSES.

Q: IN THIS CASE ALSO?

A: BUT THIS IS A PRINCIPLE FROM WHICH YOU DRAW SPECIFIC GUIDANCE THAT WE FAVOR THE PROCESS OF PEACEFUL CHANGE.

AND THAT APPLIES, OF COURSE, NOT ONLY TO CHILE BUT THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD.

Q: PAUL, I WONDER IF I COULD PUT BERNIE'S QUESTION ANOTHER WAY:

YOU, PRESUMABLY GAVE THIS LIST OF REPORTS THAT WE HAD OF IMPENDING COUPS -- NOT ONLY TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT BERNIE DREW FROM THIS, BUT RATHER TO PERSUADE US THAT THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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REPORTS WERE NOT VERY TRUSTWORTHY AND WERE NOT ASSESSED BY OUR INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE AS AMOUNTING TO KNOWLEDGE THAT A COUP WAS COMING.

NOW, YOU HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE INTELLIGENCE REPORT, OR THE REPORT OF THE 11TH, THE ONE THAT WAS TRANSMITTED PRESUMABLY THROUGH CABLE CHANNELS TO THIS BUILDING, WAS MORE TRUSTWORTHY THAN THESE OTHERS. COULD YOU SPELL THIS OUT A BIT, AND --

A: YES, I'LL BE GLAD TO.

WE HAVE RECEIVED IN THIS BUILDING OVER THE PAST MONTHS, PAST WEEKS, AND PAST DAYS, A VARIETY OF MANY REPORTS, FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES; AND I DID NOT MEAN TO INDICATE THAT BECAUSE THESE LAST MESSAGES WERE RELAYED HERE TO WASHINGTON, THAT WE GAVE THEM ANY SPECIAL CREDENCE OR SIGNIFICANCE. I DID NOT MEAN THAT AT ALL.

WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY WAS THAT IN THE PAST MONTHS, GIVEN THE FLUID AND VOLATILE SITUATION THAT HAS EXISTED IN CHILE, AND THE NUMBER OF STORIES THAT HAVE BEEN COMING OUT

OF THE COUNTRY, THAT WE HAVE BEEN -- NOT "FLOODED" BUT WE HAVE HAD A STEADY STREAM OF REPORTS.

Q: YES, BUT PAUL, THE REPORT OF A POSSIBLE COUP ON SEPTEMBER THE 11TH -- DID THAT COME IN A FORM WHICH WOULD LEAD YOU TO ATTACH GREAT CREDIBILITY TO IT -- IN DISTINCTION TO THE REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE COUP ON SEPTEMBER 8TH AND SEPTEMBER 10TH?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET MYSELF INTO A POSITION OF TRYING TO EVALUATE THIS REPORT AS OPPOSED TO THAT REPORT. I'M CLEARLY NOT IN THAT POSITION.

HOWEVER, I WOULD POINT A VERY SIMPLE FACT, AND THAT IS THAT THEY WERE NOT READ UNTIL AFTER THE COUP.

Q: PAUL, DID AMBASSADOR DAVIS DISCUSS THESE REPORTS WHEN HE CAME HERE FOR CONSULTATIONS, AND WAS THE SHORTNESS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HIS CONSULTATIONS HERE, RETURNING ON SATURDAY AFTER FRIDAY, DUE TO THE UNSETTLED SITUATION IN CHILE?

A: I SAID THAT.

I SAID THAT HE RETURNED TO CHILE BECAUSE OF THE UNSETTLED SITUATION THERE.

Q: WELL, PAUL, IF I MAY RETURN TO MY LINE OF QUESTIONING:

YOU HAVE SAID SO FAR, THAT THE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE ON CHILE WAS SET UP AT ABOUT 9:30 ON SEPTEMBER THE 11TH -- AFTER YOU KNEW THAT THE COUP WAS IN PROGRESS.

A: YES.

Q: AND THAT THE U.S. NAVAL VESSELS WERE INSTRUCTED NOT TO ENTER CHILEAN WATERS ONLY AFTER YOU HAD CONFIRMED REPORTS

THAT A COUP WAS IN PROGRESS.

A: YES.

Q- NOW THAT MIGHT LEAD PEOPLE TO DECIDE THAT AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, YOU COULD NOT BE ANY MORE SURE ABOUT THE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 11 THAN YOU HAD BEEN ABOUT THE DATES OF SEPTEMBER 8 AND SEPTEMBER 10. IN OTHER WORDS, THE FACT THAT YOU SET UP THE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE AFTER THE COUP WAS IN PROGRESS SUGGESTED YOU DIDN'T ATTACH MUCH CREDIBILITY TO THE SEPTEMBER 11 DATE, AND I JUST WONDER IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THAT EVEN MORE CATEGORICAL?

A: THEY WERE AMONG MANY REPORTS OF A SIMILAR NATURE, BUT I

DON'T WANT TO TRY AND GET INTO A SPECIFIC EVALUATION OF EACH REPORT THAT WE RECEIVED FROM CHILE DURING THE PAST MONTHS. I THINK I DIRECTED YOU PRETTY STRONGLY WHEN I SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT READ UNTIL AFTER THE COUP.

Q: WELL, PAUL, ANOTHER IMPRESSION THAT YOU CAN DRAW FROM WHAT YOU SAID IS THAT DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE KNEW THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WAS AN EXTREMELY UNSETTLED SITUATION AND WE WERE GETTING WEEKLY, IF NOT DAILY, REPORTS THAT A COUP WAS IMMINENT, THAT WE HAD NO POLICY OF EITHER HANDS ON OR HANDS OFF AND THAT IT HADN'T BEEN TAKEN UP AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. WOULD YOU CARE TO COMMENT ON THAT?

A: I THINK MY STATEMENTS OF YESTERDAY AND ALSO THE STATEMENTS AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHERE WE CATEGORICALLY DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT ON THE PART OF THIS GOVERNMENT IN THE COUP IS A PRETTY FAIR REFLECTION OF WHAT OUR POLICY WAS AT THAT TIME.

Q: PAUL, ON THESE SEPTEMBER 8, 10, AND 11 REPORTS, YOUR WORDS IN DISCUSSING THE SEPTEMBER 11 REPORT WERE, "WE DID RECEIVE REPORTS THAT SEPTEMBER 11 WAS TO BE THE DATE." DOES THAT INDICATE THAT THE SEPTEMBER 8, 10, 11 REPORTS REFERRED TO THE SAME COUP, THE SAME SOURCES OF INFORMATION?

A: NO
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE182913
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/PAF:BBELL:JZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730963/abqceiom.tel
Line Count: 477
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSCRIPT OF STATE DEPT. NEWS BRIEFING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1973 THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PERTINENT
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT
To: SANTIAGO INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
USUN N Y
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005